



# TMDLs 101

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Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin

# Topics

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- Water quality law/regulation
- TMDLs and TMDL process
- Impacts on restoration efforts
- Other projects

# Salton Sea Watershed



# Water Quality Control Law

	CWA	Porter-Cologne
Adoption of Basin Plans	X	X
Designate Beneficial Uses	X	X
Establish WQOs/Policies	X	X
Establish Implementation Plan		X

# Water Quality Standards

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- Beneficial use of the waterbody
- Criteria for protection of uses
- Policies to protect water quality

# Water Quality Objectives

- Numeric
  - "1 ppb for Selenium"
  - "5 mg/l minimum dissolved oxygen"
- Narrative
  - "no toxics in toxic amounts"
  - "no sediment in amounts that affect uses"

# Beneficial Uses of Water

- Ag supply
- Aquaculture
- Cold Freshwater Habitat
- Freshwater Replenishment
- Groundwater Recharge
- Industrial Supply
- Municipal/Domestic Supply
- Hydropower Generation
- Preservation of Rare, Threatened, Endangered Species
- Water Contact Rec.
- Non-Contact Rec.
- Warm Freshwater Habitat
- Wildlife Habitat

# Salton Sea Beneficial Uses\*

- Aquaculture
- Warm water ecosystem
  - Vegetation, fish, wildlife, invertebrates
- Wildlife habitat
- Water contact recreation
- Non-contact water recreation
- Preservation of rare, threatened, endangered species



\* Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin, CRWQCB-R7.  
(Salton Sea was designated as a sump for agricultural drainage in 1924)



# Beneficial Uses\* (cont.)

	New River	Alamo River	IV Drains	CVSWC
Wildlife Habitat	■	■	■	■
Warm water ecosystem	■	■	■	■
Recreation (I, II)	■	■	■	■
Rare, threatened, endangered species	■	■	■	■
Fresh water replenishment	■	■	■	■
Hydropower generation		P**		
Industrial supply	P**			

\* Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin, CRWQCB-R7

\*\* Potential use

# CWA 303(d) Requirements

- State
  - Identify impaired waters
  - Prioritize impaired waters
  - Develop TMDLs for impaired waters
- USEPA
  - Must act if State fails to act

# What is a TMDL?

- A written water quality improvement plan that contains:
  - a measurable target to reach attainment
  - a description of the actions to be taken to remove the impairment;
  - an allocation of responsibility to act.

# TMDL



Allowable  
Pollution from  
point sources

+



Allowable  
Pollution from  
nonpoint sources

+



Pollution from  
Natural Sources  
(wind, runoff, etc.)

+ MOS

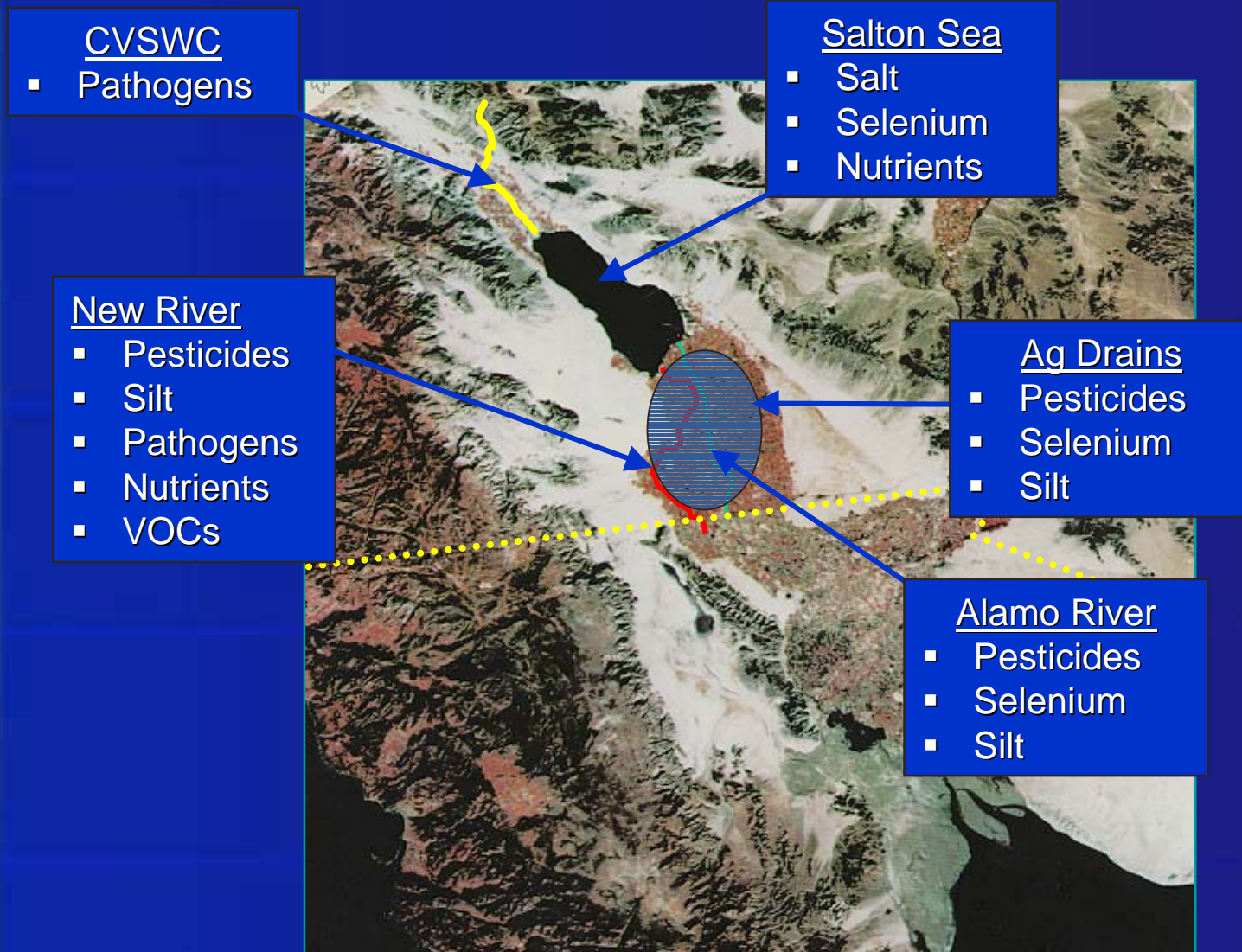
Margin of  
Safety  
(uncertainty)

**“Pollution budget” plan**

# TMDL Components

- What's the water quality problem?
- What's causing the problem?
- What standard addresses the problem?
- What's the allowable pollutant load under the standard?
- What is the link between the standard and loads?
- What measures are to be implemented to meet TMDL?

# Watershed CWA 303(d) Pollutants



# Approved TMDLs

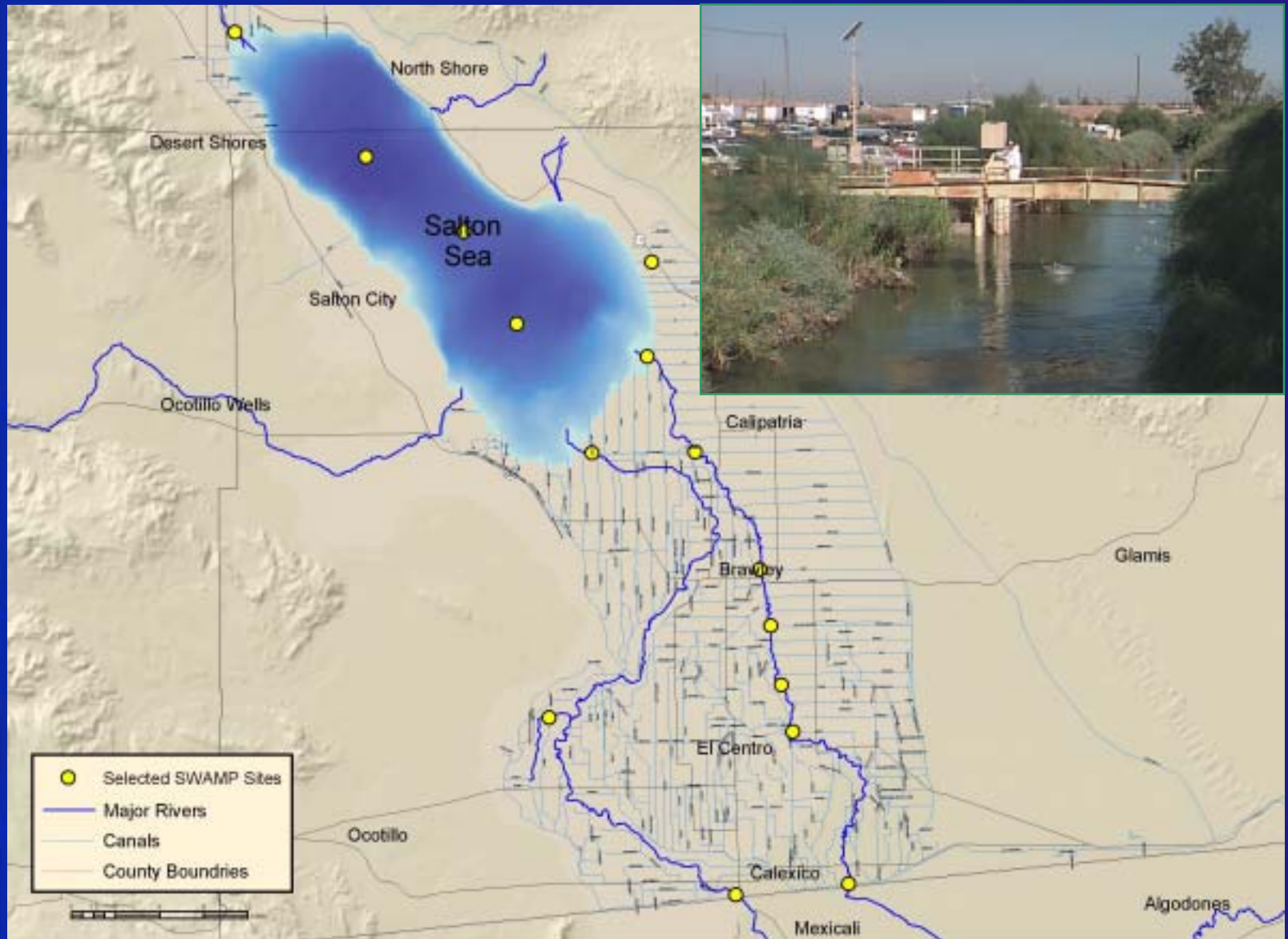
TMDL	Status
New River Pathogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ US Facilities in compliance</li><li>■ Wastes from Mexico big problem</li></ul>
New & Alamo Rivers Silt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Target silt &amp; insoluble pesticides</li><li>■ Valley-wide implementation</li><li>■ Farmers well on track</li><li>■ ~ 85% voluntary compliance rate</li></ul>

# TMDLs in the Pipeline

TMDL	Status
IV Drains Silt	Scheduled for 5/2004 Board hearing
New River Trash	Scheduled for 9/2004 Board hearing
New River VOCs	Will begin drafting in 10/2004
New River Dissolved Oxygen	Scheduled for 5/2005 Board hearing
Salton Sea Nutrients	Scheduled for 3/2006 Board hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Formed Advisory Committee</li><li>■ Focuses of phosphorous loading</li></ul>
CVSWC Pathogen	Scheduled for 6/2006 Board hearing



# Other RWQCB Actions



# Outreach and Education



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## New River Pollution in Mexico



A Historical  
Overview  
by  
Phil Gruenberg  
Executive Officer

December 1998



# Media Coverage



“Border river is also sewage drain”



# For more information

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[www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb7/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb7/)

Sheila Ault

(760) 776-8960

aults@rb7.swrcb.ca.gov